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books of the year. It reflects the convictions of a student of modern social conditions, whose scientific methods have not degenerated into academic formalities, and whose concern for humanity has not verged on sentimentality. He has looked far and deep into the causes of human misery, and has found in the midst of great evils the possibilities of good. Aside from such individual causes of unhappiness as remorse, failure in ambition, loneliness, or defective personality, the causes of social misery are found to be economic maladjustments. "Misery, as we say of tuberculosis, is communicable, curable and preventable." Social and economic maladjustments, and not depravity, account for a great part of the increase of suicide, crime, social evils, physical and mental deficiency, which mark our growing industrial and commercial communities. These maladjustments as they affect the physical conditions, the laboring capacity, and the social relations of the poor in our great cities, are discussed in the three chapters headed significantly "Out of Health," "Out of Friends," and "Out of Work."

A further analysis of these adverse conditions, and, perhaps, the most suggestive chapter to the student of social problems, is made from a study of the circumstances of the 5,000 families who applied for relief to the New York Charity Organization Society during the years 1906-1908. Finally the causes of social misery are recapitulated from another aspect, in constructing a programme for rational social control. Certain social conditions, within the control of society itself, make for a normal happy community. Their absence spells Misery. Dr. Devine holds these fundamental conditions to be a sound physical heredity, protected childhood, a prolonged working period for both men and women, freedom from preventable disease, freedom from professional crime, a general system of insurance, a system of elementary education adapted to the present needs and resources, a liberal relief system, and a higher "standard of living."

Besides the botanist, the agricultural expert and the colonial administrator, for whom the book is obviously intended, Mr. Willis's little volume on "Agriculture in the Tropics"** will be

* "Agriculture in the Tropics," by J. C. Willis, M.A., Sc.D., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Ceylon. Cambridge University Press. 1909.

welcomed by two orders of the lay brotherhood. The traveller whose *Wanderlust* takes him to the far corners of the earth, and the traveller who, never leaving his comfortable fire and lamp, voyages over the rustling country of a map, will both find the book packed full of interesting material. The main part is devoted to the cultivation of the staple tropical products. In crisp phrase and with abundant illustration, are set forth the agricultural and industrial processes by which some of the great commonplaces of daily life are produced. Rice, sugar, tea, coffee and cocoa, nuts, spices and fruits, have their histories, discoveries, migrations and adaptations, not unlike those of the peoples who live by consuming them. The descriptions of the development of the tobacco, opium and hemp industries, the adaptation of the Brazilian cinchona to the Asiatic tropics, and the subsequent monopolization of the quinine trade by Java, are chapters from the world politics of the vegetable kingdom.

Throughout the book, and especially in the part in which is outlined a progressive agricultural policy for a tropical country, we feel the point of view of the British Colonial official, who sees the development of the tropics carried on by European and American planters, by means of European and American capital. With regard to the future of the American island dependencies, the book cannot be passed over by our students of colonial affairs.

The most persistent tradition of the American people as a whole, Mr. Croly finds* to be a belief, that owing to their favorable conditions and natural enterprise a future of unusual promise and greatness awaits them. "The substance of our national Promise has consisted of an improving economic condition, guaranteed by democratic political institutions, and resulting in social amelioration." Following the Jeffersonian principle of governmental non-interference, the majority of the people in the frontier days of the Republic and in the Middle Period felt that the fulfilment of the Promise was inevitable, and, therefore, admitted the greatest individual latitude in their economic organization. The minority—and Mr. Croly does not hesitate to consider them the intelligent minority—advocated, though not effectively, the Hamiltonian principle of national responsibility.

* "The Promise of American Life," by Herbert Croly. The Macmillan Company. 1909.